



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
July 9, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Tom Skjaret, Jahn Dyvik, Michelle Jerde, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; Fire Chief: James Van Eyll

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Jerde, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Preliminary Discussion of 2020 Budget Consideration

- **Fire Department**

City Administrator Weske reviewed some of the budget considerations facing the Fire Department and noted that some changes may affect the City's overall budget more than it has in the past. He asked Fire Chief Van Eyll to outline the possible changes.

Fire Chief Van Eyll reviewed the draft 2020 budget and increases that were presented to the Fire Advisory Board. He noted that he is suggesting changing the cleaning service for the fire stations from Choice to the same service that City Hall uses, Sutton's Advanced Cleaning Services. He noted that all of the proposed changes amounted to an overall increase of 4.56% increase in their budget of which the City would see about a 3% increase in their contributions. He reviewed how fire allocation contributions are calculated and the changes between 2019 and 2020.

Council member Dyvik asked if there were grant opportunities available for things such as equipment purchases.

Van Eyll replied that there are some grant opportunities that are available pretty regularly. He gave examples of some of the smaller grants the Fire Department has received from the MnDNR and Centerpoint Energy, and also reviewed examples of some of the larger grant opportunities that the Fire Department has received and applied for in past years.

Council member Dyvik asked what was on-line for capital purchases in the upcoming year.

Van Eyll reported that for capital purchases there is the SCBA replacement budgeted at \$250,000 in addition to a few smaller items like replacement hoses. He indicated that he has also had a lot of problems with roof leaks this past year and there is work being done on some of the drains. He noted that roof replacement is part of the capital plan for Station 1 but not in the near future.

Council member Jerde asked if the Fire Department has defibrillators.

Van Eyll stated that they do have AEDs and noted that some had been purchased with money donated by the area Lions Clubs.

Mayor Miner asked Fire Chief Van Eyll to review the "wish list" items he had for the department.

Van Eyll reviewed the items on his wish list which included: a part-time administrative employee that could respond to calls, a fire inspector that could respond to calls, and additional responders. He noted that, ideally, there would be four individuals that could work eight hours a day, five days a week.

Council member Kvale asked what the difference is between a duty crew and a full-time employee.

Van Eyll explained that a full-time employee receives benefits and a duty crew is typically paid, on-call people that want a part-time job. He stated that Eden Prairie and Minnetonka both have a very successful duty crew model and noted that they off-set the staffing with some full-time daytime employees. He indicated that he does not think the City will be able to maintain the existing paid on-call volunteer staffing model and noted that he feels it is a broken model from the 1950s. He shared examples of what nearby cities have done and their staffing levels with administrators, inspectors and responders.

The Council discussed how these changes may affect the existing contract with Orono and Medina.

Van Eyll noted that he had heard through the grapevine that Orono is not interested in a duty crew model. He stated that he did have a few more items on the wish list to share with the Council. The additional items are: a global cloud based door code system for the stations, upgrading the current 2.5 LDH system, and duty uniforms for all the paid on-call firefighters.

- **Excess Bond Funds**

Weske stated that he had included some information for Council members' review regarding debt service funds from Abdo, Eick and Meyers.

- **Sewer Fund**

Weske noted that he had also included an excerpt from the management letter from Abdo, Eick and Meyers on the Sewer Fund showing that the balance continues to decrease.

- **Street Reconstruction**
- **Estimated Market Value**

Weske reviewed the preliminary 2020 budget and noted that as of right now, LGA is at \$0 and is also anticipated to be \$0 for 2020.

Council member Dyvik asked if there was a way for the City to find out what requirement it does not meet in order to receive some of the LGA funds.

Weske stated that there is a very long formula, but he will find it and send it to the Council. He reviewed the 2019 levy and the proposed 2020 proposed levy and noted that the current proposed

preliminary levy will represent a 3.1% increase; however, the tax rate of the City's portion will not change and will be the same tax rate as last years.

Council member Dyvik suggested that this information be communicated for explanation to the public so it is not just listed in the newspaper as a 3.1% increase in the levy.

Weske stated that the area he feels the City needs to be a bit proactive in is the street reconstruction. The Council discussed the City roads that are in poor shape and the possibility of doing them all at once to obtain better overall project pricing.

Weske noted that WSB is assisting the City by ranking the roadways and their current condition so the City can plan accordingly for improvements. He stated that there are lot of ways the City can plan and pay for these projects, but he would encourage the Council to start giving thought to the matter in preparation for further planning.

The Council discussed the roads and agreed that they should be a priority. The Council also discussed the inflow and infiltration rates for water and sewer with regard to the Met Council.

Weske commented that there is a lot to talk about regarding the budget for the coming year, and he hoped the information would be helpful as the Council begins consideration of budget priorities.

Council member Skjaret stated that he appreciated the fact that the Council was starting to talk about these things in July rather than September.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the work session meeting by general consent at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator